GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

School Education – Enabling students of Andhra Pradesh Govt. Schools to become Globally employable citizens – Improving the English proficiency of the students of the Govt. schools - Entering into agreement with the Education Testing Services (ETS) for the examination and certification of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – Orders – Issued.

SCHOOL EDUCATION (PROG.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.57 Dated:21.06.2023.

ORDER:-

The Government of Andhra Pradesh's motto is to enable and prepare the students studying in Andhra Pradesh's Govt. schools to become global citizens and get high-end global jobs. The first step for equipping the students of the State to become globally employable is to improve their overall English language skillset.

2. As per the findings of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation report, it is mentioned that English proficiency is a 'must have' for 73 per cent of job roles globally. Pearson Academy's Rebecca MacFarlane is of the view, that in at least 59 countries the language of global business is English. In fact, a Pearson survey found that 68% of global businesses assess their employees' English language proficiency and 91% consider it beneficial to the company if employees speak English. Additionally, employees worldwide also value English proficiency, with 92% citing it as an important factor in career advancement.

3. Rapid globalization has given English language a position of an important tool, bolstering international communication and growth. To transform this vision into reality, Government of Andhra Pradesh has been on a continuous endeavour since 2019 working on multiple aspects of the Education of the students of the State.

a. In AY 2019-20, English was made as a medium of instruction in all the 45,000 Govt. schools of Andhra Pradesh and 41 lakh students studying in Govt. schools started getting education in English medium.

b. In AY 2020-21, Govt. introduced the Bilingual textbooks in the subjects of Science, Social Science and Mathematics. Moreover, to ensure that the English language knowledge is improved English language labs were put up in the Govt. schools of Andhra Pradesh.

c. In AY 2021-22, Oxford dictionary was being provided to all the students from class 6 to 10. For the classes 3rd to 5th pictorial dictionary was provided for English improvement. Furthermore, Subject Teachers for English were introduced from class 3rd onward, instead of class 6th (as is the standard norms).

d. In AY 2022-23, students were provided with national and global platforms for learning and recognition, Government focused on affiliating all the Govt. schools with CBSE. Best content in the subjects

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of science, social science and mathematics, Audio-Video (AV) bilingual content from Byjus' is being used by the Government in all the Government schools, to further strengthen the learning quality of the students. Even the Class VIII students and teachers were provided 5,18,740 personal TABs for learning enhancement with the Byjus' App and content preloaded for the purpose of learning.

e. In AY 2023-24, under the flagship program of Nadu Nedu, Digitization of the school infrastructure is being done through 30,213 Interactive Flat panels (IFP) in High schools and 10,038 Smart TVs in Primary schools. In the leftover classrooms the IFPs and Smart TVs will be provided by 21st Dec, 2023.

4. For further improving the Spoken and Listening English of Students (even in American and European accents), Govt. of AP is working with Education Testing Services (ETS) to have a standardized assessment of the students. A standardised assessment will give feedback on English language skills of students as against globally accepted benchmarks of age-appropriate English speaking and comprehension skills. The experience of preparing for and undergoing these benchmarked tests will empower our students to inherently improve their English language skills which research shows can improve their overall performance in academics as improved language skills are known to improve mastery of learning outcomes in all subjects. In addition to this general benefit, it will also yield a two-fold benefit:

a. Firstly, it will give students in government schools, who are predominantly from marginalised backgrounds, confidence to speak and comprehend English with an internationally accepted proficiency and quality of pronunciation, while enhancing their ability to clear advanced English assessments required for access to foreign universities and employment.

b. Secondly, to those who are not accessing those opportunities abroad and stay back within the state and country, it will enhance the quality of services they will be able to provide in the professional sector given that high-quality English as proved through an internationally valid certificate is a sought-after skill and qualification in the market. This will prove invaluable for improved quality of services in tourism catering to international and national tourists, hospitality, sales and customer relations, gig-economy and many other areas thus establishing Andhra Pradesh as a sought-after destination for setting up business operations as well as tourism.

5. In order to meet the visionary goal of Andhra Pradesh to assess the English Language proficiency among the students at the Government Schools of the State, students of Classes 3rd to 9th will have the opportunity to be assessed on listening and reading skills in English and students of Class 10th to be assessed on English speaking skills. This is in line with the following packages- The TOEFL Young Students Series (YSS) TOEFL Primary Package, TOEFL Junior Standard Package and TOEFL Junior Speaking Test.

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TOEFL Primary Test and TOEFL Junior Standard Tests will assess the English Reading and Listening skills of Class 3rd to 5th and Class 6th to 9th students, respectively, while TOEFL Junior Speaking Tests will assess the English-speaking skills of Class 10th students.

6. TOEFL Primary and Junior will be the steppingstones for the Senior TOEFL exam, which is necessary for getting admission abroad. With the installation of the IFPs in the High schools and the Smart TVs in the primary

school the Govt. schools of Andhra Pradesh have reached a point where they will be leveraging the Digital Infrastructure to train the students through the Audio-Video (AV) content for further improving their listening and speaking English skills.

a. A total of 30,01,757 students of the State will be benefitted from this initiative, consisting of 12,45,191 students in primary section and 17,56,566 students in secondary section.

b. Furthermore, based on this presumption of successful implementation of the ETS agreement and improvement in English proficiency for the Govt. school children, Government has issued another order to focus on enabling the students in Govt. schools of Andhra Pradesh to achieve high-end Global jobs in futuristic technologies and opportunities like Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning, Large language models (LLM), Data Analytics to bringing in LLM platform tools such as Chat GPT, Web 3.0, Augmented Reality, Virtual reality, Internet of Things, Central bank Digital Currency, Autonomous vehicles, 3D-Printing, Gaming, etc., for which the base is English.

c. Government hereby approves the proposal for entering into agreement for TOEFL examination of the students from Classes 3rd to 9th will have the opportunity to be assessed on listening and reading skills in English and students of Class 10th to be assessed on English speaking skills. Few of the salient features of the agreement are as follows:–

   i. The cost of Readiness Test for Class 3rd to 9th is Rs.7.5/student.
   ii. For the successful student candidates who will take the Certification Test in Class 5th and 9th for Reading and Listening the cost is Rs. 600/student.
   iii. For the successful student candidates who will be writing their final 9th exams, will take the Certification Test for Speaking for which the cost is Rs. 2,500/student.
   iv. The agreement is for a minimum of 1 complete cycle of TOEFL assessment, to make an impact for the one-of-a-kind initiative that GoAP has embarked upon. The agreement would be for 5 (4+1) years.
   v. 52 best performing students' teachers will travel to Princeton, USA for a 3-day immersion program for which the travel cost will be borne by GoAP and staying and logding will be taken care by the ETS organization.
   vi. 5 Old Test papers of earlier years for both the Primary and Junior Tests will be provided by ETS services in the 1st month of agreement.

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vii. Apart from Score card provided by ETS, at Global level Global percentile, at State level State percentile. State and ETS will work together to create a model.

viii. Source of funding for the agreement will be from the available budget of Learning Enhancement Program (LEP) under Samagra Shiksha.

7. With the above salient features of the agreement the State Project Director Samagra Shiksha is hereby directed to take necessary action to enter into agreement with Education Testing Services (ETS) and get the program implemented through SCERT. He will also take all necessary action to prepare the content, related to the training of the students through Audio-Video digital methodology.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PRAVEEN PRAKASH
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The State Project Director, SS, Patamata, Vijayawada
Copy to:-
The Commissioner of School Education, AP
The Directior, SCERT, AP
The PS to Spl. CS to CM
The OSD to Minister for Education
The PS to Principal Secreatry [SE]
The Finance [FMU-SE] Department
The G.A [Cabinet-I] Department
SF/SC

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER